

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 24-29, 31-34, 36-43 and 45 are allowed over the prior art of record.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The closest prior art of record is U.S. Pub No. 2002/0073039 to Ogg et al, U.S. Pub No. 2003/0014376 to DeWitt et al and U.S. Pub No. 2005/0077346 to Dutta et al.

Ogg et al disclose a postage system for providing computer based postage stamps for a plurality of mailpieces.

DeWitt et al disclose a postage system wherein valid postage labels are associated with each of the mail pieces before the mail pieces arrive at a location comprising postage stamp applicator.

Dutta et al disclose a permit mail system wherein the human readable portion of the postage label does not include permit information.

As per claim 24, the closest prior art of record taken either individually or in combination with other prior art of record fails to teach or suggest utilizing a high-speed letter processing system to apply valid postage labels wherein no human readable portions of the valid postage labels display permit information and displaying a postage amount in an increment that is available from the delivery service, whereby the mailpiece have an appearance of a mail item comprising a postage stamp that was obtained from a delivery service that was applied by hand. Claims 25-29, 31-34, 36-41

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depend from claim 24 and include all the limitations of claim 24 and are allowable for the same reason.

As per claim 42, the closest prior art of record taken either individually or in combination with other prior art of record fails to teach or suggest utilizing a high-speed letter processing system to apply valid postage labels that have the appearance of a mail piece comprising a postage stamp that was obtained from a delivery service and was applied by hand, wherein the machine generated postage stamp is two separate labels appearing to be two different postage stamps which display postage amounts in increments that are offered by the delivery service and the two postage amounts displayed by the two separate labels total at least the determined postage amount.

Claims 43 and 45 depend from 42 and include all the limitations of claim 42 and are allowable for the same reason.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to RUTAO WU whose telephone number is (571)272-3136. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Hayes can be reached on (571)272-6708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/RUTAO_WU/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3628